

**ABSTRACT**

A container for the packaging of a still beverage or other unpressurized liquid, the container being formed from a thermoplastic material and having a body portion with a closed bottom, a neck portion, tapering inwardly as it extends upwardly from the body portion and a closure, receiving finish portion spaced from the body portion and extending from the neck portion. The container has an integral gripping feature that does not require an opening that extends laterally through the container, the gripping feature being formed by spaced, opposed gripping panels that extend laterally into the container from an edge thereof. In a first embodiment, the container body portion has a generally oval cross-section with a larger, part-circular end, and a smaller part-circular opposed end, with the gripping panels extending into the container in the body portion from the opposed end. In a second embodiment, the container has a generally circular body portion and the gripping panels extend into the container in the neck portion. In either embodiment, the gripping panels need not be spaced apart by more than 2-1/2 in., even in a container designed for the packaging of at least 64 oz. of a liquid.

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